

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04616 101048Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----025904 101050Z /16
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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA FLASH
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9169
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE WASHDC

S E C R E T BEIRUT 4616

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT LE
SUBJECT: ACTIONS ON LEBANON

REF: STATE 200854 (TOSEC 090067)

1. KINSOLVING AND I CALLED ON PRESIDENT SARKIS AND FONMIN
BOUTROS AT PALACE 1000 HOURS LOCAL AUGUST 10. FOLLOWING IS
BRIEF SUMMARY OF EXCHANGE WHICH WILL BE REPORTED MORE FULLY
IN SEPARATE MESSAGE.

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2. FIRST PART OF CONVERSATION CONCERNED SOUTH LEBANON
ON WHICH WILL DO SEPTTEL. WE THEN TURNED TO SITUATION
IN BEIRUT AND OUR PROPOSAL TO STIMULATE MINI SUMMIT.
I EXPLAINED WE WERE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT SITUATION AND OUR
CONCERNS WERE HEIGHTENED BY OBVIOUS ISRAELI AGITATION.
WE WERE CONSIDERING APPROACHES TO VARIOUS ARAB CAPITALS
URGING THE HOLDING OF A MINI SUMMIT TO DISCUSS DISENGAGE-

MENT IN BEIRUT. I HAD ASKED THAT INITIATIVE BE HELD UP
UNTIL I HAD TIME CONSUL WITH GOL.

3. SARKIS AND BOUTROS SAID:

A. SARKIS HAD BEEN ABLE NEGOTIATE AGREEMENT ON CEASE-FIRE
WITH ALL THE PARTIES YESTERDAY. ALTHOUGH THEY FAR FROM BEING
OUT OF THE WOODS, PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE. CEASE-FIRE WOULD
INVOLVE SOME REDEPLOYMENT OF SYRIAN TROOPS AND HAD BEEN
ACCEPTED BY ALL CONCERNED. THEREFORE, THEY DID NOT THINK ANY
SUMMIT SHOULD BE HELD ON THIS SUBJECT UNTIL THEY HAD
CHANCE TO SEE WHETHER THEIR EFFORTS WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL.

B. IF THERE WAS TO BE A SUMMIT, IT SHOULD BE DEVOTED
TO ENTIRE QUESTION OF LEBANON AND NOT JUST BEIRUT. HE
DOUBTED THAT SUMMIT COULD PRODUCE ANYTHING BETTER THAN
DECISIONS TAKEN AT RIYADH AND CAIRO, BUT IT MIGHT NEVERTHELESS
BE USEFUL FOR SUCH A SUMMIT TO DISCUSS APPLICATION THOSE
DECISIONS, WHICH HAD BEEN BLOCKED. WHILE SUCH A SUMMIT MIGHT
BE DESIRABLE, THEY DID NOT THINK THERE WAS A CRASHING HURRY
ABOUT IT.

C. THE KEY TO HOLDING SUCH A SUMMIT WAS SYRIAN ATTITUDE.
IF SYRIANS OPPOSED IT, IT WOULD BE A WASTE OF TIME.

D. IF WE COULD CONVINCE SAUDIS TO CARRY THE BALL AND PROPOSE
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SUCH A CONFERENCE, AND IF THEY COULD PREVAIL UPON SYRIANS
AND OTHERS TO ACCEPT IT, THAT MIGHT BE USEFUL. THEY THOUGHT
IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE, HOWEVER, FOR US TO PROPOSE SUCH AN
IDEA TO THE SYRIANS OR TO THE OTHER ARABS OURSELVES, BECAUSE
THAT WOULD CLEARLY MAKE IT AN AMERICAN INITIATIVE WHICH
SYRIANS WOULD FEEL BOUND TO REJECT.

4. IN SHORT, LEBANESE REQUEST THAT WE NOT MAKE APPROACHES
DESCRIBED IN REFTTEL BUT THAT WE GIVE THE PRESENT
NEGOTIATIONS HERE A CHANCE TO SUCCEED. THEY DON'T THINK
WE SHOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE WITH THE ARAB STATES IN ANY
EVENT BUT THINK WE SHOULD LEAVE THAT UP TO THE SAUDIS.
I BELIEVE THEIR ASSESSMENT IS CORRECT AND SUGGEST WE SHOULD
CONCENTRATE ON GETTING SAUDIS TO PUSH THIS IDEA AND STAY
OUT OF IT OURSELVES.
PARKER

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NNN

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